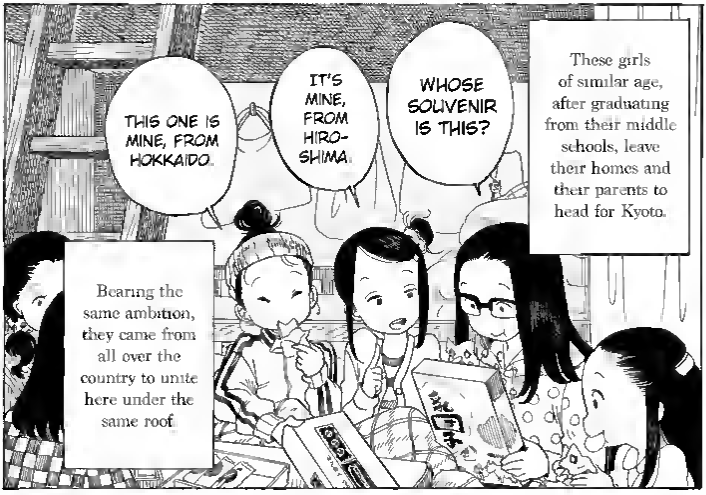
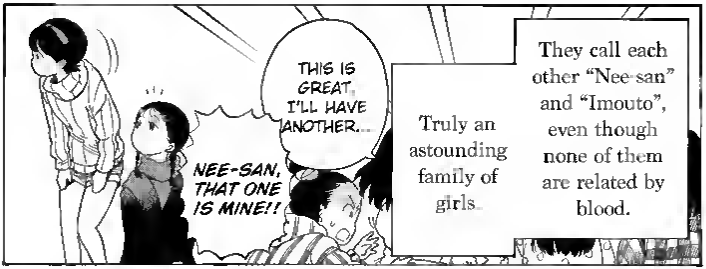
舞妓さんちのまかないさん

Chapter 27: Kyoto, Once More

小山愛子

OH, THESE ARE FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.
THEY REALLY ARE-
Many girls working as Maiko here in Kyoto are not natives of the town


WHOSE SOUVENIR IS THIS?
IT'S MINE, FROM HIRO-SHIMA.
THIS ONE IS MINE, FROM HOKKAIDO.
These girls of similar age, after graduating from their middle schools, leave their homes and their parents to head for Kyoto.
Bearing the same ambition, they came from all over the country to unite here under the same roof.


THIS IS GREAT, I'LL HAVE ANOTHER...
NEE-SAN, THAT ONE IS MINE!!
Truly an astounding family of girls.
They call each other "Nee-san" and "Imouto", even though none of them are related by blood.

I SHOULD START PREPARING DINNER SOON.

KIYO-CHAN, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

IF EVEN WE MAIKO HAVEN'T STARTED WORKING YET,
THEN OF COURSE THE CATERER WOULDN'T HAVE TO WORK EITHER, RIGHT?
GEEZ, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
Mother has given us war funds.
WE'RE GOING OUT!? EVERYONE IS GOING OUT TOGETHER!?
A RESTAURANT MEAL!!
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
AH NEW YEAR'S WAS SO MUCH QUIETER
SHHSSH! MOTHER IS STILL TAKING A NAP.
SILENCE...

HAMBURGER + FRIES AND DRINKS
WELCOME!! WOULD YOU LIKE TO ORDER OUR SPECIAL COMBO TODAY?

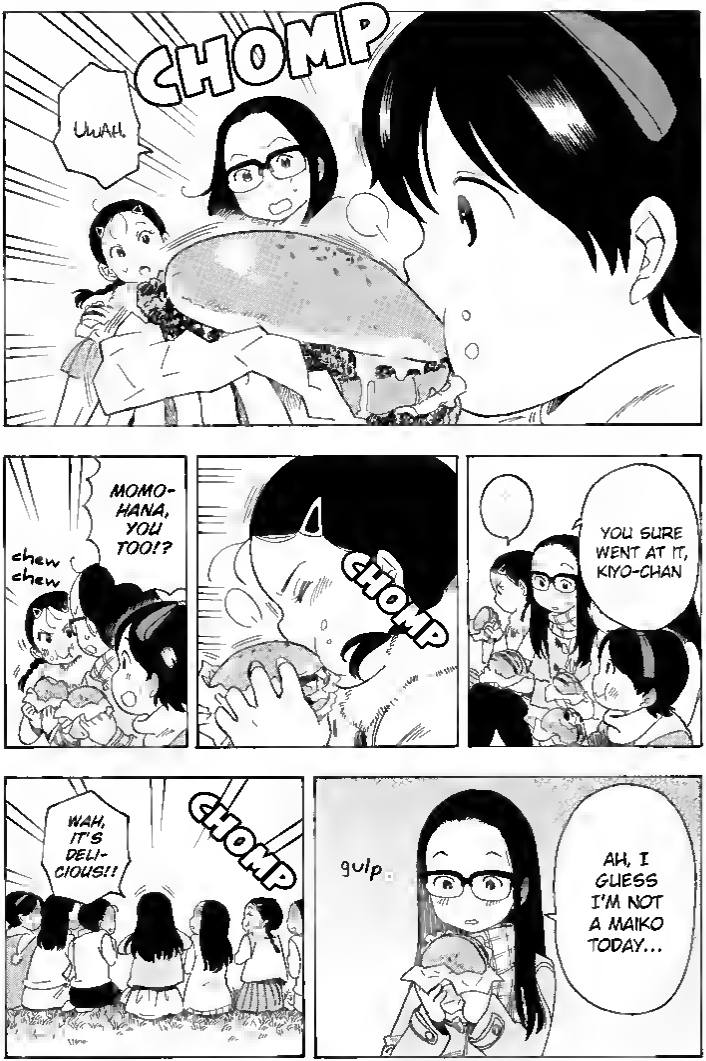
Person who can go in normally but never had the chance
Ooh...

To the Maiko, a fast food restaurant is not a place they can normally enter. It's "a place to yearn for", so to speak.
Ooh...

AH, YOU GUYS ARE FROM ICHI MANOR!!
WAIT, NEE-SAN!?
SO EVERY-ONE HERE IS FROM NEE-SAN'S MANOR ..!!
THANK YOU.
UHMM, WE HAVEN'T DECI-DED ON WHAT TO ORDER YET, YOU GUYS CAN GO ON AHEAD.
LET'S GET ALONG, NEE-SAN.
LET'S GET ALONG
LET'S GET ALONG THIS YEAR TOO.
HAPPY NEW YEAR, NEE-SAN.
BOW
BOW
LET'S GET ALONG THIS YEAR TOO, SIS!!
The fast food restaurant is "a place to yearn for" to a lot of Maiko.
AH.
WAH, BIG SIS!!

PASS THIS ON TO NEE-SAN
OVER HERE.
WHO GOT THE TERIYAKI BURGER?
WOW, WHAT A SURPRISE. FOR EVERY-ONE TO THINK OF THE SAME THING.

I'M SORRY, IT'S MY FAULT!! MOMO-HANA'S FAULT!!
WHOSE IDEA WAS IT TO GO TO KAMO-GAWA TO EAT AGAIN!?
SHIVER SHIVER
COLD! COLD!
COLD! COLD!
ピュー
I JUST THOUGHT WE COULD WATCH PEOPLE SIT AND CHAT FROM THE TOP OF THE BRIDGE WHEN WE COME BACK ..
WE STAND OUT TOO MUCH NORMALLY WITH OUR HAIRS UP,
NOT TO MENTION IT'S RARE FOR US TO HAVE A CHANCE FOR EVERY-ONE TO COME TOGETHER LIKE THIS...
Hamburger
(A delicious hamburger from a fast food restaurant)
WELL, I GUESS THAT'S TRUE.
YEAH.


CHOMP
UuAH.
MOMO-HANA, YOU TOO!?
chew chew
CHOMP
YOU SURE WENT AT IT, KIYO-CHAN
CHOMP
WAH, IT'S DELI-CIOUS!!
gulp
AH, I GUESS I'M NOT A MAIKO TODAY...

WOW, THAT'S GREAT
I GOT TO DROP BY YASAKA-SAN FOR MY FIRST SHRINE VISIT OF THE YEAR
HIGASHI-YAMA

HEY, SUU-CHAN
EVEN GOING BACK TO AOMORI DIDN'T CHANGE MY DIALECT BACK.
WHEN WE START WORKING AGAIN, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO EAT?
REAA-ALLLLY NOW~
I'VE BEEN THINKING FOR A WHILE, BUT I STILL COULDN'T DECIDE ON ANY-THING

TL-Notes: Dialects in Japan

IN JAPAN, THE TOP 3 MOST NOTABLE DIALECTS THAT YOU MAY COME ACROSS ARE:

-THE STANDARD TOKYO DIALECT: THIS IS THE "OFFICIAL" DIALECT OF JAPAN AND IS THE ONE MOST WIDELY USED. YOU LEARN THIS IN YOUR BASIC JAPANESE CLASSES AND HEAR IT SPOKEN IN ANIME ALL THE TIME.

-THE KANSAI DIALECT: SPOKEN IN THE WESTERN PART OF JAPAN AROUND OSAKA. THE KYOTO DIALECT USED PROMINENTLY IN THIS MANGA IS A VARIATION OF IT.

-AND THE WEIRDEST OF ALL, THE TOHOKU DIALECT, USUALLY ASSOCIATED WITH FARMERS AND COUNTRY FOLKS. SPOKEN MOSTLY IN THE TOHOKU REGION OF JAPAN, WHICH EXTENDS FROM SLIGHTLY EAST OF TOKYO ALL THE WAY UP TO HOKKAIDO.

AS I'VE MENTIONED IN THE TL-NOTES FOR CHAPTER 1, MOST OF THE CHARACTERS IN THIS MANGA SPEAKS IN THE KYOTO DIALECT. BUT THAT ISN'T THE CASE FOR OUR 2 MAIN CHARACTERS. YOU SEE, THERE IS A VARIATION OF THE TOHOKU DIALECT NATIVE TO AOMORI CALLED TSUGARU-BEN, AND IT'S ARGUABLY THE MOST DIFFERENT SOUNDING DIALECT FROM STANDARD JAPANESE. KIYO'S GRANNY SPEAKS IN THIS DIALECT AND OFTEN CAUSES A LOT OF TROUBLE WHEN TRANSLATING.

BUT CONTRARY TO EXPECTATIONS, OUR 2 MAIN CHARACTERS DESPITE BEING AOMORI NATIVES ALSO DON'T SPEAK IN THE TSUGARU-BEN DIALECT! KIYO SPEAKS IN A VERY STANDARD TOKYO DIALECT, WHILE SUU-CHAN HAS COMPLETELY ADAPTED TO HER NEW ENVIRONMENT AND SPEAKS IN A KYOTO DIALECT. WHILE IT'S CONFUSING AT FIRST, THE TWO MAIN CHARACTERS' ACCENTS MAKE SENSE IF YOU CONSIDER JAPANESE CULTURE.

TOHOKU-BEN DIALECT SPEAKERS TAKE GREAT CARE IN HIDING THEIR COUNTRY ACCENTS WHEN SPEAKING WITH OUTSIDERS, BECAUSE OF NEGATIVE CONNOTATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE DIALECT. TOHOKU-BEN IS ALSO NEGATIVELY REFERRED TO AS "ZUU ZUU BEN," BECAUSE SPEAKERS OF THE DIALECT OPEN THEIR MOUTHS LESS AND GIVES THEIR SPEECH A SLIGHTLY SLURRED, LAZY SOUND, KIND OF LIKE THEY WERE SAYING "ZUU ZUU MUU NUU BUU" INSTEAD OF ACTUAL WORDS. THE DISTINCT DIALECT THUS BECAME SYNONYMOUS WITH THE IMAGE OF LAZY COUNTRY BUMPKINS, AND AS A RESULT MANY SPEAKERS, ESPECIALLY THE YOUNGER GENERATIONS, AVOID SPEAKING IN THIS DIALECT OUTSIDE OF THEIR HOMETOWNS. HOWEVER, AS MORE TOHOKU-BEN SPEAKERS AVOID USING THE DIALECT AROUND OUTSIDERS, THE DIALECT BECAME HARDER AND HARDER TO UNDERSTAND FOR OTHERS DUE TO THEIR LACK OF EXPOSURE TO THE DIALECT. THIS RESULTED IN A NEGATIVE SPIRAL WHERE THE TOHOKU-BEN DIALECT BECAME MORE FOREIGN, HARDER TO UNDERSTAND AND MORE NEGATIVELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE BUMPKIN LIFESTYLE.

NOT TO MENTION THAT JAPAN IS CURRENTLY TRYING TO BLOT OUT MOST DIALECTS TO CREATE A SINGLE, STANDARD JAPANESE LANGUAGE BY FORCING ALL PRINTED MATERIALS AND MEDIA TO BE IN HYOJUNGO. THIS MOVEMENT GOES HAND IN HAND WITH THE JAPAN'S PUSH FOR CONFORMITY AND UNITY. PERSONALLY, I FIND IT A SHAME TO LOSE ALL THAT CULTURAL, HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.

EXAMPLE OF TSUGARU-BEN: KEI AND CHINATSU'S DAD FROM FLYING WITCH. (EPISODE 3)

*MOST OF THE WRITING IN THIS NOTE IS SHAMELESSLY RIPPED FROM TOFUGU.COM. CHECK THEM OUT FOR COOL ARTICLES ABOUT JAPAN

/a/nonymous presents:

1

maiko-san chi no makanai-san

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